United Nations A/53/762

General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 December 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Agenda items 55 and 149

Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

United Nations Decade of International Law

Letter dated 17 December 1998 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, in my capacity as Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, to transmit herewith a statement on the situation in Iraq.

I would be grateful if this statement could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 55 and 149.

(Signed) Khiphusizi J. **Jele**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-39922 (E) 181298

Annex

Statement on the situation in Iraq issued by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on 17 December 1998

The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries deplores the ongoing military actions against Iraq by individual countries without any authorization from the Security Council in flagrant disregard of the Charter of the United Nations. The Movement emphasizes that the full implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions by all parties constitutes the only means for establishing durable peace, security and stability in the region.

The Movement urgently calls for a peaceful solution to the crisis that the region currently faces, which it believes will contribute positively to the promotion and preservation of peace and security within the principles and purposes of the United Nations.

In this regard, the Movement calls on all sides to continue efforts aimed at a peaceful settlement under the auspices of the Security Council, including an active role for the Secretary-General. The Movement further calls for the immediate cessation of all military strikes and the avoidance of any actions that might further aggravate tension in the region.